

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 124774

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TO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 124774

FOLLOWING REPEAT DAR ES SALAAM 1694 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
BUJUMBURA KINSHASA NAIROBI BUKAVU MAY 25.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 1694

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC (SSMUTSS, SMITH AND HUNTER)

SUBJECT: THREE KIDNAPPED AMERICANS

1. BARBARA SMUUTS ARRIVED DAR ES SALAAM FROM KIGOMA, WAS MET
BY MYSELF AND REPRESENTATIVES TANZANIAN PRESIDENT'S OFFICE,
FONOFF AND POLICE, AND CAME DIRECTLY TO EMBASSY FOR MEETING WITH
MEE, EMBOFFS, BERNARD MUGANDA OF FONOFF, AND MOHAMED ISSA AND LINTON
MATELEMA BARUTI FO PRESIDENT NYERERE'S OFFICE.

2. I READ LETTER (DAR ES SALAAM 1693) WHICH FOUR CAPTIVE
STUDENTS HAD COMPOSED, TRANSMITTING DEMANDS OF THEIR CAPTORS,
WHO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AS THE PARTI DE LA REVOLUTION POPULAIRE
(PRP) OF LAURENT KABILA. WE GAVE TANZANIANS COPIES OF THIS
LETTER AND OF TWWO OTHER PROPAGANDA DOCUMENTS (REPORTED
SEPTEL) WHICH CAPTORS HAD SENT ALONG WITH SMUTS.

3. SMUTS DESCRIBED EXPERIENCES AS FOLLOWS: AFTER THEIR
CAPTURE, STUDENTS WERE TAKEN MORE OR LESS DIRECTLY ACROSS
LAKE (A SEVEN-HOUR TRIP) TO ZAIIRIIAN SIDE. RAIDERS' MOTOR BOAT
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 124774

USED NO LIGHTS; TOWED GOMBE STATION BOAT BEHIND IT. THERE WERE
26 IN RAIDERS GRROUP. ON ARRIVAL CAPTIVES WERE MARCHED
FOR ABOUT AN HOUR UP A STEEP SLOPE TO A P.R.P. CAMP ON THE TOP
OF THE CREST (LIGHTS OF KIGOMA COULD BE SEEN ACROSS THE LAKE).

SMUTS DESCRIBES CAMP AS HAVING 75-150 OR MORE SOLDIERS, MOSTLY WEARING KHAKI UNIFORMS (OF VARYING SORTS) AND PULL-ON RUBBER BOOTS. THERE ALSO WOMEN AND CHILDREN PRESENT, AND SOME AGRICULTURAL CULTIVATION. SOLDIERS SPOKE SWAHILI TO EACH OTHER AND FRENCH TO CAPTIVES. CAPTIVES WERE AT NO TIME BLINDFOLDED, AND INDEED ONE OF THEM MANAGED TO TAKE SOME PHOTOGRAPHS WITH CAMERA HE HAD WITH HIM AND WHICH SMUTS BROUGHT BACK WITH HER ((WE WILL DEVELOP FILM). MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS OF PHYSICAL LOCALE AND DESCRIPTIONS OF CAPTORS WILL BE SENT SEPARATE MESSAGE.

4. SPOKESMAN FOUR CAPTORS IDENTIFIED CAMP AS BEING IN TERRITORY LIBERATED BY PRPP, WHICH WAS FIGHTING AGAINST MOBUTO REGIME. THEY ACCUSED TANZANIAN PRESIDENT NYERERE OF SUPPORTING MOBUTU, AND THEREFORE OF BEING THEIR ENEMY. PUBLICITY ABOUT THEIR GROWING VICTORIES HAD BEEN SUPPRESSED BY MOBUTU AND BY NYERERE, AND THEY WANTED THE WORLD TO KNOW THEY WERE WINNING.

5. ON THURSDAY (MAY 22) CAPTORS DESIGNATED SMUTS TO CARRY MESSAGES BACK, BUT POSTPONED DEPARTURE ALLEGING THAT ESCORT WAS ILL. THIS WAS REPEATED ON FRIDAY. ON SATURDAY NOON THEY HEARD TANZANIAN RADIO APPEAL, AND SMUTS WAS SENT BACK ACROSS LAKE. IN ADDITION TO THE LETTER CONTAINING DEMANDS SHE WAS GIVEN THREE SEALED LETTERS FOR PRESIDENT NYERERE, AND WAS TOLD TO SPEAK TO NYERERE PERSONALLY. CAPTORS IMPLIED THAT MEANS OF COMMUNICATION, ETC., WERE CONTAINED IN LETTERS TO NYERERE. THEY ALSO SAID THAT TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD RELEASE JEAN MAKIMBA AND CLAUDE MALUMBA AND THAT ONE OF THEM SHOULD GO TO ZAIRE TO THE PRPP CAMP FOR NEGOTIATIONS. THE STUDENTS WERE WARNED THAT THEY WOULD BE IN DANGER UNLESS ALL PRP DEMANDS CARRIED OUT TO THE LETTER, AND ALSO THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO ATTACK THE CAMP TO RESCUE THEM WOULD LEAD TO THEIR DEATH.

6. SMUTS WAS ROWED ACROSS THE LAKE, DEPARTING EVENING MAY 24, BY SIX INDIVIDUALS IN A FISHING BOAT. TRIP TOOK 15 HOURS. SHE WAS RELEASED NORTH OF KIGOMA AND WALKED INTO TOWN.

7. SMUTS GAVE THREE LETTERS ADDRESSED TO NYERERE TO TANGOV
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 124774

OFFICIALS PRESENT. DURING MEETING WORD CAME THROUGH THAT NYERERE WOULD LIKE TO SEE HER. IT WAS AGREED THAT I WOULD TAKE HER TO CALL ON MWAAALIMU ON MAY 26, PROBABLY IN MORNING. SMUTS ALSO HAD LETTERS FROM DUTCH AMBASSADOR AND FOR CAPTURED STUDENTS' FAMILIES. (WE HAVE DELIVERED LETTERS TO DUTCH; THEY WERE IDENTICAL TO THOSE WE RECEIVED.)

8. WE AGREED WITH TANGOV OFFICIALS THAT TANZANIANS WILL ISSUE OFFICIAL STATEMENT THAT (1) SMUTS BACK SAFE AND SOUND;; (2) OTHER CAPTIVES, AS OF MAY 24, WERE ALSO WELL; (3) SMUTS CARRYING MESSAGE FOR PRESIDENT NYERERE. WE WILL REFUSE ANY FURTHER COMMENT AT THIS TIME, ON GROUNDS OF NEED TO PROTECT THE REMAINING CAPTIVES. (SINCE CAPTORS APPARENTLY MONITORING

RADIO TANZANIA, WE HHOPE THAT REFERENCE TO MESSAGGE WILL REASSURE THEM THAT SMUTTS FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS SHE WAS GIVEN.)

9. SMUTS IS STAYING AT MY RESIDENCE FOR TIME BEING. BEFORE GOING THERE FROM EMBASSY SHE SPOKE TO HER PARENTS BY TELEPHONE (WE HAD BOOKED CALL IN ADVANCE).

10. COMMENT: APPARENT THAT TANGOV IS TO BE PRINCIPAL CONTACT FOR REBEL BAND RATHER THAN EITHER AMBASSADOR HINTON OR MYSELF AS REPORTED IN DAR ES SALAAM 1691. UNLESS ADVISED TO CONTRARY, INTEND TO PERMIT TANGOV TO BE PRINCIPAL CONTACT. NEEDLESS TO ADD WE ALSO INTEND TO CONTINUE TO STAY VERY CLOSE TO TANGOV UNTIL THIS MATTER CONCLUDED. CARTER UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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